Nicaragua Says It Has Cracked a C.I.A. Spy Ring

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MANAGUA, Nicaragua, March 14 — The security police have arrested three Nicaraguans who are accused of working to infiltrate the Interior Ministry under orders from the Central Intelligence Agency.

Comdr. Lenin Cerna, chief of the security police, also named four American diplomats on Thursday who he said were involved in the C.I.A. operation. Two were posted at the United States Embassy here.

A spokesman for the embassy, John Roney, said he knew of no American diplomats who worked for the C.I.A. He said Thursday that Ambassador Harry Bergold had received a note from the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, but he declined to reveal its contents.

Senior diplomats, however, indicated that the diplomats would probably not be expelled from Nicaragua.

In June 1983, three American diplomats were expelled after being charged with taking part in a plot to poison the Foreign Minister, the Rev. Miguel D'Escoto Brockmann. The Reagan Administration responded by shutting all Nicaraguan consulates in the United States.

At a news conference Thursday, Commander Cerna displayed a variety of espionage equipment that he said C.I.A. agents had provided to the infiltrators. The equipment included code books, a tiny camera concealed in a cigarette lighter and dissolving pills said to make invisible messages appear on specially treated paper.

Commander Cerna said the C.I.A. was apparently seeking information it could use to discredit the Sandinista Government. He said one of those arrested, José Eduardo Trejos Silva, had been asked to find out about ties between the Sandinistas and leftist guerrillas in Colombia and El Salvador.

Commander Cerna said that Mr. Trejos, who held the rank of sublieutenant in the Interior Ministry, was recruited by the C.I.A. while he was outside Nicaragua in November 1983. He said that on three occasions in Managua, American agents left supplies, money and instructions for Mr. Trejos in a rock that had a hollow compartment.